

EGYPT

ARRESTS OF MUSLIM
BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS
AND SUPPORTERS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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INTRODUCTION

In the last two weeks, hundreds of members of the Muslim Brotherhood and supporters of Egypt's deposed President, Mohamed Morsi, have been rounded-up and are facing accusations of inciting or participating in violence. At least nine leading members of the Muslim Brotherhood and its allies are currently in prison and facing a number of charges linked to the violent events which have unfolded in Egypt since 30 June, the beginning of mass protests opposing Mohamed Morsi. They include the Muslim Brotherhood's former General Guide, Mohamed Mahdi Akef; Deputy General Guides Khairat al-Shater and Rashad Bayoumi; the Head of the Freedom and Justice Party, Saad al-Katatni; as well as leading Muslim Brotherhood member Helmi el-Gazzar and Muslim Brotherhood lawyer Abdelmonim Abdelmaqsud. Those detained also include prominent allies of the Muslim Brotherhood: Salafi politician Hazem Salah Abu Ismail; Islamist television presenter Khaled Abdallah; and former MP Mohamed al-Oumda.

As to the ousted President and his aides, they have been held incommunicado since 3 July 2013, amid a lack of transparency regarding their whereabouts or the legal basis of their detention. Arrest warrants have also been issued for other prominent leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, including its current General Guide, Mohamed Badie, on accusations that they were involved in the violent clashes between Mohamed Morsi's supporters and opponents that have taken place since 30 June 2013. Hundreds of alleged supporters and members of the Muslim Brotherhood have also been arrested and face investigation in the context of the ongoing political turmoil, most notably the violence in front of the Republican Guard Club in Cairo on 8 July 2013. Most were released on bail a few days after their arrest. Some reported they were beaten during arrest, and interrogated while blindfolded by men they believed to be members of National Security Agency, an intelligence agency under the Ministry of Interior formed after the State Security Investigations service was disbanded in 2011. The service was notorious for detaining and torturing Hosni Mubarak's political opponents.

Some members or supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood might have been involved in inciting or participating in violence. However, Amnesty International is concerned that others are being pursued solely for their membership or support of the Muslim Brotherhood, and their peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and assembly. The organization's concerns are heightened by the crackdown on print publications and television channels known for their support of the deposed President, a move seemingly aimed at silencing criticism of Morsi's ousting. Al Jazeera Mubasher Misr, which has been perceived as siding with Morsi's supporters, was taken off-air shortly after the ousting of Morsi when security officers in plainclothes raided its office and arrested some 28 staff members. They were released a few hours later, while the channel's director was bailed a couple of days later.

Amnesty International urges Egypt's authorities to ensure that investigations into the political violence in the run-up to and since 30 June are independent, impartial and full; with a view of delivering truth and justice to all victims, rather than settling political scores and carrying out reprisals against the ousted leadership and their allies. Failing to do so would risk bringing Egypt back full-circle to the Mubarak-era practice of cracking down on the Muslim Brotherhood with impunity.

REPUBLICAN GUARD CLUB VIOLENCE

Mass arrests took place on 8 July around the Republican Guard Club, both during and immediately after the violence in which at least 51 of Mohamed Morsi's supporters died, along with three members of the security forces.

Lawyers told Amnesty International that the security forces initially arrested over 650 men around the Club. On 9 July, about 450 men were released on bail pending investigations. Another 206 men were transferred to Tora Prison, south of Cairo, and Isti'naf Prison at Cairo's Security Directorate. On 14 July, courts ordered that the men be released on bail. However, Amnesty International believes that some are still in prison because they could not pay bail, which ranged from 1,000 to 5,000 Egyptian pounds (US\$140-US\$700). They face a number of criminal charges, including murder, participation in violence, destruction of property, attempting to storm the Republican Guard Club, illegal possession of arms, and attacking the security forces.

Lawyers and released detainees have told Amnesty International that the security forces carried out arrests in the early hours of 8 July around the Republican Guard Club, among them the military police and other members of the armed forces, including Special Forces, as well as the riot police (Central Security Forces CSF). Most detainees were initially held at the Republican Guard Club, before being transferred to 17 police stations across Cairo. Some newly released detainees told Amnesty International that they were beaten during arrest.

Prosecutors questioned the detainees inside police stations on the evening of 9 July. A number of newly released detainees told Amnesty International that they were interrogated several times, at least once while blindfolded, suggesting that in addition to questioning by prosecutors and police officers, intelligence bodies were involved in the investigations. Detainees assumed that they were questioned by members of National Security Agency, including because of their well-documented pattern of blindfolding suspects during interrogations the past under Hosni Mubarak's rule.

Newly released detainees complained about not being allowed to inform their families or lawyers of their arrest and places of detention. Consequently, some detainees appeared in front of the prosecution without their lawyers present. Several lawyers also told Amnesty International that they faced difficulties in obtaining from the prosecutors their clients' full files, hampering their ability to prepare their defence adequately.

A 19-year-old university student [name withheld on request] told Amnesty International that he was arrested inside a mosque near the Republican Guard Club at about 3.30am, along with some 40 other men. He thought the security forces who arrested him were members of the riot police, as they were wearing black uniforms. He said:

"We were made to leave the mosque and lie on our stomachs in the middle of the road. They tied my hands behind my back with a plastic band... We were then forced into police cars and taken inside the Republican Guard Club... We were kept inside the cars until about 9am; it was extremely difficult to breathe because we were about 40 people squeezed inside and

they did not give us water... Hours later, we were transferred to [name withdrawn] police station; there we were insulted, threatened and told that we were ruining the country. One [security officer] told me: 'You want to meet God? We can show you tonight.'"

He said that the security officers and even the prosecutor questioning him had advised him not to take part in the pro-Morsi rallies, and that they had sought to obtain information about members of the Muslim Brotherhood living in his neighbourhood. The student said that when a detainee held with him insisted on having a lawyer present during interrogations, that man was taken to solitary confinement and he did not see him again.

Other released detainees complained they were beaten upon arrest. University student **Shehab Ali**, 24, told Amnesty International that men in military uniform arrested him near the Oubour buildings, close to the site of violence, at about 4.00am on 8 July. He said:

"As soon as they saw me, they told me to stop, raise my hands, and then lie on the ground face-down... They punched me, kicked me a few times, and hit me with the backs of their rifles; this lasted for about 15 minutes... There were two other men arrested near me, lying in the same position... We were left in the street like that for a few hours, and every once in a while soldiers would come, step on us, kick us and say something insulting... They eventually took us inside the Republican Guard Club, keeping us in the cells with the conscripts who were being disciplined."

Two and a half days later, Shehab Ali was released without being presented to the prosecution. He faces no charges. During his detention, he was not allowed to inform his family about his whereabouts.

On 8 July security forces arrested **Abdel Hamid Nasreddin Abdel Hamid**, a 29-year-old salesman, after they forcibly dispersed the sit-in near the Republican Guard Club. He told Amnesty International that he was arrested after he took refuge from the tear gas in the nearby Orouba tower, along with 30-40 others. An hour after he took shelter in the tower, military police and the CSF arrived, as well as a man in plainclothes that Abdel Hamid Nasreddin Abdel Hamid said he believed was from National Security. The man told the protesters to sit on the floor and to put their hands on their heads, and instructed the soldiers to shoot anyone who dropped their hands. The security forces walked the protesters downstairs in groups of five at a time. As they did so they insulted the protesters, pushed them with their weapons and fired into the air. An army officer then told the protesters to walk on their knees while keeping their hands on their heads, and said that anyone who dropped their hands would be shot.

Another army officer then accused Abdel Hamid Nasreddin Abdel Hamid of being a protest-leader, at which point he said the CSF and military police beat him with sticks and gun-butts, and kicked him with their boots. He said they dragged him to the gate of the Republican Guard Compound, pulling off his trousers and underwear while they did so. Inside the compound, a doctor treated Abdel Hamid Nasreddin Abdel Hamid for an eye-injury he had sustained from the beating, and ordered an ambulance to take him to Al Zahraa Hospital. He returned home after two hours at the hospital. He is still awaiting his medical report, after which he has told Amnesty International he will complain to the Public Prosecution. He does not know whether he will face charges.

Abu Bakr Khidr, an employee at the High Council for Islamic Affairs, said that before the end of the dawn prayer on 8 July the security forces attacked the protesters from three directions, using tear gas and firearms.

Abu Bakr Khidr told Amnesty International that the night before the attack a military helicopter had dropped a message from the army saying that they wouldn't hurt anyone, although he had also heard a rumour that the Republican Guard were preparing to move against the protesters.

During the attack Abu Bakr Khidr took cover by the Muslim Brotherhood stage where he was in charge of co-ordinating speeches and announcing prayer times, along with about 15 other people. He said he couldn't see what was going on very well because of the tear gas. However, he said he saw soldiers wearing gas masks, body armour and helmets shooting and killing three men at close range. Abu Bakr Khidr also said that a soldier had pointed his automatic rifle at him, but he was out of ammunition and so struck him on the head with the butt of the weapon, before a commanding officer ordered him to stop.

Abu Bakr Khidr said he was then arrested along with a group of about 50 others. He said a member of the Special Forces told them to crawl to the Republican Guard Club. There, soldiers beat them. At the Republican Guard Club, Abu Bakr Khidr saw officials from the Ministry of Interior, as well as commandos, paratroopers, military police and state security officers. Doctors treated the men who needed treatment. The detainees had access to water and toilets, but no food. Members of the security forces checked their identification. As their numbers grew the detainees chanted against military rule and against General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, head of Egypt's army, who on 3 July had announced that Mohamed Morsi had been removed from power. Abu Bakr Khidr was transferred with Mostafa Ali (see below) to a police station.

Mostafa Ali, a 37-year-old worker, gave a similar account of his detention at the Republican Guard Club. He was arrested at about 4am and was held at the Club until about 3 or 4pm. He said he was arrested after he fled the tear gas into a Ministry of Planning building which was across the road in Salah Salem Street. There, he hid with his wife and others in the offices. He said Special Forces in black (from the army's "777 unit", which specializes in counter-terrorism) stormed the building, shooting randomly into the offices. He said he saw them shoot and kill one injured man, and that another man had died from blood loss.

Mostafa Ali said that after the security forces caught him and his wife, they pulled her niqab (a veil covering a woman's face and revealing only her eyes) and made them both crawl on broken glass in the room. They also beat and insulted him and the other protesters. The security forces then took their mobile phones and money and tied the detainees to each other with plastic handcuffs. He said the security forces forced the detainees to crawl along the ground, beating them as they went and shocking them with an electric rod on their behinds. The detainees crawled till they reached the gate of the Republican Guard Club. The security forces then put the group of 40 or so people into an army lorry and drove them to a back door of the compound.

Mostafa Ali said that at the Republican Guard Club a high-ranking Ministry of Interior official interrogated him, asking why the protesters were obstructing the traffic. Mostafa Ali told the

official that the protesters were taking part in a peaceful sit-in.

At around 4pm a CSF lorry came and took the group of about 50 detainees away from the Republican Guard Club. Mostafa Ali told Amnesty International that the security forces never returned the mobile phones they took, and those who had been held couldn't call anyone. Both Abu Bakr Khidr and Mostafa Ali were driven to Al-Darb Al-Ahmar Police Station with the group. There, Mostafa Ali and Abu Bakr Khidr said 32 of the detainees were held in an overcrowded cell in the police station, with barely the space to lie down to sleep. The floor was cold and toilets didn't have taps.

The men both said that at around 1am they were interrogated by a man they believed to be an officer from the National Security Agency. Both men said they were blindfolded when entering the police station rooms and didn't have their shirt, shoes or socks. They think they were filmed or photographed because they were told to stand in one position and turn around. The officer asked about their personal details and their political beliefs. The men said they were not tortured during their time at the police station.

During the evening a prosecutor interrogated them separately. While Abu Bakr Khidr had a lawyer present, Mostafa Ali did not. The prosecutor charged both men with the murders of three members of the security forces; using firearms; theft; raiding the Republican Guard Club and obstructing traffic. Both men told the prosecutor about their treatment during their arrest and what they had seen. Abu Bakr Khidr stayed a total of three days in detention, after which he was released on bail on 10 July 2013. The prosecutor ordered that Abu Bakr be transferred to a forensic doctor to examine his injuries, but he has yet to secure an appointment. Mostafa Ali was released on bail on 11 July 2013.

Amnesty International is also concerned at the fact that – reportedly due to security concerns – court proceedings appear to have been held inside prisons rather than courts. This has interfered with the suspects' right to be assisted by a lawyer at all stages of proceedings. Lawyers complained to Amnesty International that on 14 July they were not able to attend appeal hearings in Tora Prison against the prosecution's decision to keep their clients in pre-trial detention while investigations were ongoing.

Leading members of the Muslim Brotherhood and their allies have reportedly also been accused of involvement in the violence in the case of Republican Guard Club. They include:

- Mohamed Badie, General Guide, Muslim Brotherhood (arrest warrant issued)
- Mohamed al-Beltagy, General Secretary, Freedom and Justice Party (arrest warrant issued)
- Issam al-Aryan, Deputy Chair, Freedom and Justice Party (arrest warrant issued)
- Safwat Hegazy, Preacher (arrest warrant issued)
- Assem Abdelmaged, Leading figure, Gama'a al-Islamiya (arrest warrant issued)
- Mohamed al-Oumda, former MP and presenter, Misr 25 channel (detained at Tora)

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- Safwat Abdelghani, Leading figure, Gama'a al-Islamiya (arrest warrant issued)
- Abdelrahman Ezz, 2011 uprising youth figure and Muslim Brotherhood sympathiser (arrest warrant issued)
- Mahmoud Hussein, General Secretary, Muslim Brotherhood (arrest warrant issued)

GIZA: CAIRO UNIVERSITY SIT-IN VIOLENCE

According to lawyers and relatives, at least 14 prominent members of the Muslim Brotherhood and others close to them have been charged with inciting violence in the vicinity of Cairo University, Giza, on 2-3 July 2013. The violence between supporters of Mohamed Morsi and local residents led to at least 18 reported deaths, amid the failure of the security forces to put an end to the violence.

Prominent Muslim Brotherhood lawyer **Abdelmonim Abdelmaqsoud**, a member of the National Council for Human Rights, was arrested on 4 July 2013 at Tora Prison. According to his colleague from the Sawasiya Centre for Human Rights, Abdelmonim Abdelmaqsoud went to Tora Prison at about 10pm in his capacity as counsel to attend the questioning of Freedom and Justice Party Leader Saad al-Katatni, and Deputy Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, Rashad Bayoumi. Abdelmonim Abdelmaqsoud was detained at Tora Prison a few hours later pending investigations into his alleged role in the violence around Cairo University. The following day, during interrogations, it transpired that all of the accused, including Abdelmonim Abdelmaqsoud, were facing a number of criminal charges, including incitement to kill opposition protesters around Cairo University, complicity in murder through hiring criminals and providing them with weapons, and the establishment of an armed group.

Amnesty International is concerned that the case against Abdelmonim Abdelmaqsoud is motivated by his long-standing involvement with the Muslim Brotherhood, including as their chief lawyer. To Amnesty International's best knowledge, he has not made any public statements since the crisis began. Abdelmonim Abdelmaqsoud is facing separate charges of "insulting the judiciary" in relation to his public criticism of the decision of the High Constitutional Court to dissolve Egypt's lower house of parliament in 2012.

Names of the accused in the Cairo University violence:

- Saad al-Katatni, Head, Freedom and Justice Party (detained at Tora Prison)
- Abdelmonim Abdelmaqsoud, Lawyer (detained at Tora Prison)
- Rashad Bayoumi, Deputy General Guide, Muslim Brotherhood (detained at Tora Prison)
- Helmi el-Gazzar, Leading figure, Freedom and Justice Party (detained at Tora Prison)
- Mohamed al-Oumda, a former MP and presenter, Misr 25 channel (detained at Tora Prison)
- Hazem Salah Abu Ismail, Salafist politician (detained at Tora Prison)
- Abou al-Ela Madi, Chair, Al-Wasat Party

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- Issam Sultan, Deputy Chair, Al-Wasat Party
- Issam al-Aryan, Deputy Chair, Freedom and Justice Party (arrest warrant issued)
- Khaled Abdallah, Television host and preacher (detained at Tora Prison)
- Mohamed al-Beltagy, General Secretary, Freedom and Justice Party (arrest warrant issued)
- Assem Abdelmaged, Leading figure, Gama'a al-Islamiya (arrest warrant issued)
- Tariq al-Zommor, Leading figure, Gama'a al-Islamiya
- Safwat Hegazy, Preacher

According to lawyers, no other arrests – either of supporters or opponents of Mohamed Morsi – have been carried out.

MOQATTAM VIOLENCE

A number of prominent Muslim Brotherhood figures are facing separate charges of inciting violence and complicity in the killing of protesters outside the Muslim Brotherhood headquarters in the Moqattam, Cairo, on 30 June. During the attack, at least eight people, including a child, were shot dead when individuals inside the headquarters fired at protesters attempting to storm the building.

Khairat al-Shater, the Deputy General Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood and a prominent businessman, is among those arrested in relation to the Moqattam violence. He was arrested at his brother's home in Cairo on 5 July and captured on video. It appears to have been carried out by heavily armed security officials, some in civilian dress, who failed to present an arrest warrant and who insulted and pushed members of the household. A number of Khairat al-Shater's businesses across the country have been attacked by anti-Muslim Brotherhood crowds and looted, while members of the security forces failed to intervene.

Names of accused in the case of Muslim Brotherhood headquarters violence:

- Mohamed Badie, General Guide, Muslim Brotherhood (arrest warrant issued)
- Mohamed Mahdi Akef, former General Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood (detained at Tora Prison)
- Khairat al-Shater, Deputy General Guide, Muslim Brotherhood (detained at Tora Prison)
- Saad al-Katatni, Head, Freedom and Justice Party (detained at Tora Prison)
- Rashad Bayoumi, Deputy General Guide, Muslim Brotherhood (detained at Tora Prison)
- Mahmoud Abu Zeid, Leading figure, Muslim Brotherhood
- Ossama Abu Bakr
- Ahmed Shousha
- Mahmoud Ezzat, Leading figure, Muslim Brotherhood
- Safwat Hegazy, Preacher
- Mohamed al-Beltagy, General Secretary, Freedom and Justice Party

PRESIDENTIAL TEAM

At least 10 members of the Presidential team, including deposed President Mohamed Morsi, have been held incommunicado since 3 July in conditions that may amount to an enforced disappearance. Family members who have asked have been denied information on their relative's whereabouts and fate, and they appear not to have been brought before a judge or given access to a lawyer. The authorities have yet to disclose their exact whereabouts or the charges facing them. The Minister of Foreign Affairs claimed on 10 July that Mohamed Morsi was in a "safe place" and "treated with dignity", without elaborating any further.

On 13 July, Egyptian media quoted the Public Prosecution's decision to investigate complaints against Mohamed Morsi and other leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood on charges of inciting violence, spying, and ruining the economy.

Names of the detained members of the Presidential team:

- Mohamed Morsi, deposed President
- Ayman Ali
- Ahmed Abdelaty
- Assaad al-Shikh
- Khaled al-Qazzaz
- Essam al-Haddad
- Abdelmequid Mashali
- Refa'a al-Tahtawy
- Ayman al-Hodhod
- Ayman al-Serafy

At time of writing there are unconfirmed reports that two members of President Morsi's team may have been released: Ayman al-Hodhod and Abdelmequid Mashali. Amnesty International also received conflicting reports with regards to the arrest of Packinam al-Sharkawi with the rest of the team.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amnesty International calls on the Egyptian authorities to:

- Release all those detained or charge them with recognizably criminal offences in proceedings that fully conform with international fair trial guarantees;
- Immediately and unconditionally release anyone detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, assembly or association;
- Protect all those deprived of their liberty from torture or other ill-treatment, and investigate allegations of beatings and other ill-treatment of detainees;
- Immediately grant access for all those deprived of their liberty to their families, lawyers and doctors; and
- Immediately disclose the whereabouts of deposed President Morsi and his presidential team and grant them access to their lawyers and families. Release them unless they are charged with recognizably criminal offences.

Amnesty International further calls on the Egyptian authorities to:

- Protect members of the public, including peaceful protesters, regardless of their political affiliation, and uphold the right to peaceful assembly, including where necessary by protecting protesters from violent attacks by their opponents;
- Ensure that the committee established by the Interim President to investigate violence in front of the Republican Guard Club on 8 July has powers of search and seizure and to subpoena witnesses and suspects, including officials from the armed forces and the Ministry of Interior;
- Ensure that investigations look into the role of security forces in failing to protect lives;
- Conduct prompt, independent and impartial investigations into the political violence in which demonstrators on both sides were killed and injured by their political opponents in order to establish individuals responsible and ensure their prosecution in fair trials and without recourse to the death penalty;
- Ensure all investigations into killings follow the methods set out in the UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions. Findings should be presented to judicial authorities with the view of bringing those responsible to justice. Such judicial authorities must include effective safeguards against interference and/or influence from police or security officers as well as politicians. Those appointed for this task must be individuals of integrity and ability with appropriate qualifications, and must enjoy the trust of victims; and
- Ensure that full autopsy and medical reports are issued to facilitate thorough investigations and ensure access to justice and reparations for all victims and their families.

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